

Jake's Law

FWP Committee

- Introduction
 - Mike Vinton
5115 High Trail Rd.
Billings, MT 59101
(406)248-1984
- Why this bill exists
 - Jake was turning 12 and I called Irv Wilke with MT Hunter's Safety
 - Jake took the Hunter's Safety course
 - They allowed him to take the field course, and he passed it.
 - Minnesota does have a similar Law in effect.
 - We have met with FWP and Hunter safety directors and instructors
- Why this bill is important
 - Economic Impact of Hunting
 - Here in Montana, more than half a million anglers and hunters spent more than \$550 million on recreation in Montana year (2001)—supporting the jobs of more than 12,000 Montanans. This means, Montana's sportsmen and women not only spend time in the outdoors, but equally important, they spend lots of money doing it.
 - FWP gives first license free to youth 12 – 17 years of age.
 - Current law states if you were born after January 1, 1985 you must possess a hunter's safety certificate
 - You must pass both the written and field test, which is 100% subjective
 - The written portion of the exam is very comprehensive.
 - Many people with developmental disabilities simply will never pass this written portion of the test
 - Other disabilities are allowed to hunt (i.e. Blind people) obviously with assistance.
 - Exceptions have been made for physically disabled hunters
 - The ability for other disabled people to legally hunt shouldn't be denied.
- Conclusion
 - Safety is the utmost important issue
 - Currently, in order to carry or use a firearm in public, a youth under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the child, or be under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult 18 years of age or older who has been authorized by the youths parent or guardian, MCA 45-8-344.
 - What better way to allow (new hunters) or people with disabilities to hunt than to ensure that they are assisted by a person that has qualifications such as passing the Montana Hunter's safety course.
 - **Please get this bill passed into law so that Jake and others will be able to continue the hunting tradition that we value so much.**



